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Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for PSY 3001 (Research Methods in Psychology)

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PSY 3001: Research Methods in Psychology

Location:

Time: Tuesday & Thursday: 2:55 – 5:25

Instructor: Steven Young, Ph.D.

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Office hours: Tues 12-1 & Th 12-1

Teaching Assistant:

Office:

Office hours: by appointment

Required Readings:

- Research Methods in Psychology (2016). Minneapolis MN: University of Minnesota Press. (available on Blackboard as a free PDF)

Additional Readings:

- APA Publication Manual (currently the 6th edition)
- Other readings may be posted on blackboard or handed out during class at various points during the semester

Course Introduction:

This course provides an introduction to the process of conceiving, designing, and conducting research in psychology, as well as analyzing, interpreting, and reporting results from such research. It will prepare you to be both a consumer and producer of scientific research, and also involves basic issues related to the work of psychological scientists such as theory development, research ethics, and scientific writing.

In order to understand the information presented in scientific research - both in scientific journals and the mainstream media - you will need to be able to understand the methods by which the research was conducted as well as the statistical information used to draw the conclusions produced by the research. Thus, this course will teach you logical and comprehensive skills that will be highly valuable regardless of your future career plans. Furthermore, this course serves as a foundation for the remainder of the curriculum in our department, where you will be asked to apply the skills you gain here.

In this class, you will learn about the scientific method and how psychologists use this to answer questions about human behavior. You will also encounter the analytical procedures used to measure properties of these behaviors. By the conclusion of this course, you should have a sufficient grasp of several fundamental design and analysis procedures, including when and why they are used. You will also encounter real examples of research applications that use these procedures, and sharpen your skills in critical thinking and logical inference.



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Learning goals:

- To describe why psychology is a science.
- To conduct library database searches and identify readings relevant to one's research topic.
- To interpret and synthesize the results of empirical papers in the academic literature.
- To generate creative, scientifically grounded hypotheses in the field of psychology.
- To identify the proper methodological tools for addressing a particular research question, and to design and execute a study using these tools.
- To describe the ethical principles that guide research with human subjects.
- To write a high-quality APA-style research paper.
- To critically evaluate scientific claims made in popular media.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

I employ a straightforward points system to calculate grades. Your final grade will be determined by the total # of points earned divided the # of points possible in the course (total points = 545).

- **Lab assignments and participation (50 points):** We will have frequent “labs” throughout the semester. These lab sessions will provide the opportunity to engage in hands-on activity that demonstrate the topics and research methods discussed in class. The group research projects (see below) will largely be conducted during these lab sessions as well. Participation in these group activities is essential for passing this class. Participation points will be awarded for various activities completed in lab throughout the semester.
 - **CITI ethics certification (10 pts toward participation).** You will automatically receive full credit if you achieve a passing grade on the CITI ethics training. You will lose 2 points for each day the CITI certification is late. Failure to complete CITI certification will result in being dropped from the class.
- **Exams (100 points each).** There will be three exams throughout the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.
- **Small team research projects.** You will work in small research teams to conduct *three studies* throughout the semester.
 1. **Observational study (50 points).**
 2. **Survey study (50 points),** including survey design, data collection, and analysis.

For these first two studies, you will recruit either other students within the class or outside volunteers as research participants. Following data collection and analysis, each student will submit for grading a summary of the study, which will include an overview of the hypotheses being tested, the method used, the statistics used to analyze the data, the results, and the conclusions. (A form will be provided to assist you with this process.) *While each student must draft and submit his or her own summary,* members of the same research team may work together to complete the project.

3. Experimental study (70 total points), including designing the experiment, collecting data, and analyzing data.

For the experiment you will again recruit either other students within the class or outside volunteers as research participants. Following data collection and analysis, each student will submit an APA style research paper (including an Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References). The steps involved in designing, conducting, and writing up an experiment will be covered in class/lab and each student will receive guidance and feedback. Additionally, you will first submit a draft of Introduction and Methods section of the research paper (10 points) and then later a draft of the complete the paper (10 points). You will receive feedback on each draft and be given the opportunity to incorporate this feedback into your final research paper (50 points). *While each student must draft and submit his or her own research paper*, members of the same research team may work together to design and conduct the project.

Group Experiment Presentations (25 points): A power point presentation of your research proposal is also required in this class. Your class presentation should include the following:

- A brief opening that introduces your topic
- A clear summary of your hypothesis and relevant background research
- Detailed explanation of your methodology
- Coherent and statistically accurate summary of your findings
- A conclusion that summarizes your work and explores implications of your findings

COURSE POLICIES:

Academic Honesty: In an academic community, we place a high value on the pursuit of truth and knowledge. Students who engage in cheating and/or plagiarism will receive an F grade in the class and be referred to the Office of the Dean. For more information please refer to the following websites:

http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.htm
<http://newman.baruch.cuny.edu/help/plagiarism/default.htm>

Late work: Unless otherwise specified, no late work will be accepted without a documented and valid excuse (e.g., an illness accompanied by a doctor's note excusing you from a specific day of class). Except where noted in the course schedule, all assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified.

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be given without a valid and documented excuse (e.g., an illness accompanied by a doctor's note excusing you from a specific day of class). If you know in advance that you'll miss an exam (e.g., you'll be traveling for sports), please contact me at least a week prior to the exam date so that we can reschedule the exam.

Attendance: This class requires collaborative group work and frequent participation. Missing class sessions will not only negatively impact your grade, but will also make the various group activities and assignments more difficult for your fellow students. Remember that participation is worth points as well, and it's difficult to participate in class if you don't show up. With all this in mind, students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. For each additional unexcused absence,

students will lose 5 points from their class participation grade. Being more than 15 minutes late to class will count as ½ an absence.

Research Participation: All students enrolled in PSYC 3001 are required to complete two (2) credits of experiments as part of the Baruch Psychology and Marketing participant pool. Full details are provided on Blackboard. An alternative to participating in research is to complete a writing assignment. Failure to complete the research or an alternative will result in your grade being lowered (e.g., from a “B” to a “B-”).

*Course schedule on next page

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course schedule throughout the semester. Any changes will be posted on blackboard and announced via email and in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture	Text	Lab	Assignments & Notes
1/30	Syllabus Review & Course Introduction			
2/1	No Class			
2/6	Research in Psychology	Chapter 1	Group activities	
2/8	Theories & Hypotheses	Chapter 4	Group activities	
2/13	Finding Research Articles	Chapter 2	PsychINFO	
2/15	Research Ethics	Chapter 3	Group activities	
2/20	No Class (Monday Schedule)			
2/22	Variables & Validity	Chapter 5	Group activities	<i>Drop without W deadline 2/19</i>
2/27	Exam 1			CITI certification due
3/1	Measurement & Reliability	Chapter 5	Group activities	
3/6	Observational Research	Chapter 7	Generate ideas	
3/8	Observational Research	Chapter 7	Design	<i>Conduct observation</i>
3/13	Analyze Observational Data		Analyze Data	
3/15	Survey Research	Chapter 9	Generate ideas	Observation report due
3/20	Survey Research	Chapter 9	Design	
3/22	Analyze Survey Data		Data Collection	
3/27	Analyze Survey Data		SPSS	
3/29	Exam 2			Survey report due
4/3	Spring Break			
4/5	Spring Break			
4/10	Experimental Research	Chapter 6	Group activities	
4/12	One-way Designs	Chapter 8	Group activities	
4/17	Repeated Measures Designs	Chapter 8	Generate Ideas	
4/19	Factorial Experimental Designs	Chapter 18	Design	
4/24	Analyzing & Interpreting Data	Chapter 13	SPSS/Design	
4/26	Analyzing & Interpreting Data	Chapter 13	SPSS/Design	
5/1	Writing an Experimental Paper	Chapter 11	Data collection	
5/3	Writing an Experimental Paper	Chapter 11	SPSS	Draft Intro & Methods Due
5/8	Writing an Experimental Paper	Chapter 11	Writing	
5/10	Writing Day			Draft Paper Due @ 11:59pm
5/15	Presentations			
5/17- 5/24	Final Exam week (Date TBD) Final Experiment Paper Due at start of Final Exam			